

# Virginia Department of Historic Resources

## PIF Resource Information Sheet

This information sheet is designed to provide the Virginia Department of Historic Resources with the necessary data to be able to evaluate the significance of the property for possible listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. This is not a formal nomination, but a necessary step in determining whether or not the property could be considered eligible for listing. Please take the time to fill in as many fields as possible. A greater number of completed fields will result in a more timely and accurate assessment. Staff assistance is available to answer any questions you have in regards to this form.

<b>General Property Information</b>	For Staff Use Only DHR ID #: <b>058-5127</b>
Property Name(s): <u>Averett Graded School (Craddock Memorial Hall)</u>	
Property Date(s): <u>August 1942</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Circa <input type="checkbox"/> Pre <input type="checkbox"/> Post             Open to Public? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Limited <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Property Address: <u>57 White House Road</u> City: <u>Nelson, Virginia</u> Zip: <u>24580</u>	
County or Ind. City: <u>Mecklenburg County</u> USGS Quad(s): <u>Nelson</u>	

### Physical Character of General Surroundings

Acreage: 1.931    Setting (choose one): ☐ Urban    ☐ Town    ☐ Village    ☐ Suburban    ☒ Rural    ☐ Transportation Corridor

Site Description Notes/Notable Landscape Features:

The school building is located on the corner of highway 49 north and 735 Averett Road (57 White House Road), Nelson Virginia. Under the leadership of Rev. Jordan Mosely, land was purchased to establish Beautiful Plain Baptist Church. With this purchased, land was designated to the establishment of Averett Graded School. The three room, wood framed building was very instrumental in the educational process of many Black students from the Averett community and North Carolina area. Renovations have been done to include indoor plumbing, gas heat, vinyl flooring, new windows and a second floor addition. This addition is used by the Averett Masonic Lodge No. 235. The Parcel "A" is divided between the Current church and the school building.

Secondary Resource Description (Briefly describe any other structures (or archaeological sites) that may contribute to the significance of the property:

In February 1940, Beautiful Plains Baptist was destroyed by fire. The current church, Wharton Memorial Baptist, (a beautiful brick veneered church) was renamed in honor of Rev. George D. Wharton, who faithfully labored among the people in the school and church. Wharton Memorial Baptist Church has had seven dedicated men of God to faithfully serve as pastor, community leader and supporter of education, including our current pastor, Rev. James Arthur Hudson, Jr.

Ownership Category:    ☒ Private    ☐ Public-Local    ☐ Public-State    ☐ Public-Federal

### Individual Resource Information

What was the historical use of this resource? Examples include: Dwelling, Grist Mill, Bridge, Store, Tobacco Barn, etc...

The Averett Graded school was established in the early 1800s to educate Black children in the neighborhood and North Carolina. At its conception, it was a two room school. As the students became to come, a third room was added. Thousands of children attended this school. Being educated was strongly encouraged by the leaders of the church and neighborhood. Providing a strong educational foundation would help students to prepare themselves for a better life. Many of the students were able to graduate from high school, trade school and college. As a result of their education many were able to become teachers, ministers, veterinarians, nurses, bankers, mechanics, brick masons, entrepreneurs and members of the armed forces.

What is the current use? (if other than the historical use)	The original level currently is not being used. It had been used for wedding receptions, Youth Department activities, vacation Bible school and church meetings. When the church added on the fellowship hall and Sunday School classes, the need diminished. The Masonic Lodge # 235 uses the top level for their meetings.
Architectural style or elements of styles:	Basic wood frame building with a A frame roof with a stone foundation
Architect, builder, or original owner:	The members of the Beautiful Plains church and community members help build and establish the building. The land belongs to the trustees of Wharton Memorial Baptist Church (formerly Beautiful Plains Church)
# of stories	2 Condition: <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Rebuilt <input type="checkbox"/> Renovated
Are there any known threats to this property?	No

<b>Resource Component Information</b> Please answer the following questions regarding the individual components of the resource. If the component does not exist, answer "n/a." If you feel uncomfortable in answering the question, please leave the space blank. Photographs of the features can also help our staff identify specific feature components. Usually, priority is given to describing features on the primary (front) facade of the structure.
<b>Foundation:</b> Describe the foundation that supports the structure. Examples include piers, continuous brick, poured concrete. Stone foundation on each corner
<b>Structure:</b> Describe the primary structural component of the resource. Include primary material used. Examples include log, frame (sawn lumber), and brick. Also include the treatment, such as a particular brick bond or type of framing, if known. Wood frame, white plank build. Tin roof.
<b>Walls:</b> Describe the exterior wall covering such as beaded weatherboard or asbestos shingles. Basic wood paneling and wood
<b>Windows:</b> Describe the number, material, and form of the primary windows. This includes the number of panes per sash, what the sashes are made of, and how the sashes operate (are they hinged or do they slide vertically) Have the windows been replaced? 12 windows on lower level. Wood at the bottom and glass at the top. Glass windows. 6 windows on the second level.
<b>Porch:</b> Briefly describe the primary (front) porch. List the primary material, shape of the porch roof, and other defining details. Two porches = L shaped Front porch wood flooring, tin top Back porch wood flooring, tin top
<b>Roof:</b> Describe the roof, listing the shape and the covering material. A shape, tin top
<b>Chimney(s):</b> List the number of chimneys and the materials used. Include the brick bond pattern if possible. Two brick chimneys, red brick

**Architectural Description of Individual Resource:** *(Please describe architectural patterns, types, features, additions, remodelings, or other alterations. A sketch of the current floor plan would be appreciated.)*

The three room school was very simplistic and basic. Bathrooms were outdoors. Heat was provided by stoves, with wood donated from community members. The school was the pride and joy of the community. The purpose was to provide a safe environment for the children to learn. Supplies and books were purchased according to the resources available. The administrators, teachers and volunteers were prepared to meet their needs. As monies were donated, resources given, renovations and updates were done. Indoor plumbing and gas heat were completed.

The top addition was done by the Averett Masonic Lodge #235.  
 Pictures of the building and other sites on parcel are included

**Significance Statement:** Briefly note any significant events, personages, and/or families associated with the property. (Detailed family genealogies are not necessary.) Please list all sources of information. It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or genealogies to this form. Normally, only information contained on this form will be posted for consideration by the State Review Board.

The first church, Beautiful Plains Baptist Church, was established and organized under the leadership of the late Rev. Jordan Mosely. On November 1, 1922, it was recommended that the name be changed from Beautiful Plains to Wharton Memorial. Thus, Beautiful Plains was renamed Wharton Memorial Baptist Church in honor of the pastor who so faithfully labored among the people in the school and church for fifty-two (52) years, Rev George D. Wharton.

The administrators and faculty included the following: Mary Amis, Lizzie Brooks, Eva Gayles, Evelyn Harris, Rufus Harris, Bessie Lockett, Robert Saunders, Ella Sizemore, Mr. Quallo.

Some of the faithful church members were: Amis, Boxleys, Days, Downeys, Finleys, Jamiesons, Perrys, Shorts, Speeds, Ross, Yanceys.

**Legal Owner(s) of the Property** (For more than one owner, please use a separate sheet.)Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Dr. ☐  
Miss ☐ Ms. ☐ Hon. ☐James Arthur Hudson, Jr. BS, DVM,  
Master of Divinity

(Name)

(Firm)

2681 Plank Road

South Hill, Virginia

23970

(Address)

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

pastorjimhudson@gmail.com

1-434-8822

(Email Address)

(Daytime telephone including area code)

Owner's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**• • Signature required for processing all applications. • •**

In the event of corporate ownership you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Telephone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant Information** (Individual completing form if other than legal owner of property)Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☒ Dr. ☐  
Miss ☐ Ms. ☐ Hon. ☐

Janet Pines Robinson

(Name)

(Firm)

2210 Meade Lane

Durham

NC

27707

(Address)

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

Joemade51@gmail.com

1-919-489-6268

(Email Address)

(Daytime telephone including area code)

Janet Pines Robinson

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: April 19, 2014

**Notification**

In some circumstances, it may be necessary for DHR to confer with or notify local officials of proposed listings of properties within their jurisdiction. In the following space, please provide the contact information for the local County Administrator or City Manager.

Mr. ☒ Mrs. ☐ Dr. ☐  
Miss ☐ Ms. ☐ Hon. ☐

Mr. Wayne Carter

Mecklenburg County  
Administrator

(Name)

(Position)

350 Washington Street

P.O. Box 307

(Locality)

(Address)

Boydton 23917

VA

23917

1-434-738-6191 Ext 4202

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

(Daytime telephone including area code)

Please use the following space to explain why you are seeking an evaluation of this property.

The Averett Graded School should be a historical landmark because of its vital purpose, the education of students. The teachers and administrators who donated so much time and effort to make the lives of our children in the church family and community better people. Education is the key component for success, then and now. To keep those memories alive for those who devoted their time and energy would be a significant tribute.

Would you be interested in the State and/or the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits? Yes ☐ No ☒Would you be interested in the easement program? Yes ☐ No ☒